

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCE-00 ABF-01 COME-00 /084 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:AM
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
H:NCLEDSKY

-----058973 261426Z /43

R 252310Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS STATE 187977

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO

FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS TEXT OF "DEAR COLLEAGUE"
LETTER DATED JULY 1978 SENT TO ALL HOUSE MEMBERS BY
CONGRESSMEN FASCELL, BRADEMAS, MINETA, BLANCHARD, BIAGGI,
DERWINSKI, ROSE, TSONGAS, MIKULSKI, O'BRIEN, ROSENTHAL,
P.J. MITCHELL, FRASER, GILMAN, J.L. BURTON, EDGAR, WYCHE
FOWLER, FLORIO, D'AMOURS, RUSSO AND RANGEL:

BEGIN TEXT YOU WILL SOON HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAST A
VOTE IN FAVOR OF A FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON PRINCIPLE AND
IN ACCORD WITH THE RULE OF LAW.

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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE LIMITED
ARMS EMBARGO NOW IN EFFECT AGAINST TURKEY IS, IN OUR VIEW,
AN ILL-CONCEIVED MOVE THAT VIOLATES FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL,
MORAL AND SECURITY PRINCIPLES OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. WE
ASK YOUR HELP IN DEFEATING THIS EFFORT, AND WE HOPE TO SET
FORTH, IN THIS AND SUBSEQUENT LETTERS, THE CONSIDERATIONS
WHICH HAVE LED US TO OUR POSITION ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO IS REQUIRED AS A MATTER OF LAW.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS VOTED BY CONGRESS ONLY AFTER TURKEY, IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF AMERICAN LAWS AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ALREADY IN EFFECT, USED AMERICAN WEAPONS FOR OFFENSIVE PURPOSES IN ITS SECOND -- AUGUST, 1974 -- INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS.

UNLIKE TURKEY'S CYPRUS ACTION OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH, WHICH WAS MOUNTED IN RESPONSE TO A COUP INSTIGATED ON THE ISLAND BY THE GREEK JUNTA, THIS AUGUST INVASION TOOK PLACE AT A TIME WHEN HOSTILITIES HAD ENDED, THE JUNTA HAD FALLEN, A CEASEFIRE WAS IN EFFECT AND THE INTERESTED PARTIES WERE ENGAGED IN PEACE TALKS AT GENEVA. IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT TURKEY EMPLOYED 40,000 TROOPS, ARMED WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS, TO OCCUPY FORTY PERCENT OF CYPRUS, AND IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO THIS SECOND, CLEARLY OFFENSIVE, OPERATION THAT CONGRESS ACTED.

PROVISIONS OF BOTH THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT REQUIRED THAT FURTHER MILITARY AID TO TURKEY BE TERMINATED. THE EMBARGO WAS VOTED, THEREFORE, NOT TO ENACT NEW LAW BUT RATHER TO INSURE THAT EXISTING LAWS WERE ENFORCED.

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SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE HAS CONCEDED IN HIS RECENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS WAS CARRIED OUT IN VIOLATION OF AMERICAN LAWS AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. HE HAS CONCEDED, FURTHER, THAT THE IMPOSITION OF THE EMBARGO WAS THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THOSE VIOLATIONS.

PRECISELY THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WHICH JUSTIFIED IMPOSITION OF THE EMBARGO NOW REQUIRE ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT.

NEARLY FOUR YEARS AFTER ITS INVASION OF CYPRUS, TURKEY STILL OCCUPIES FORTY PERCENT OF THE ISLAND. NEARLY 30,000 TROOPS OF THAT OCCUPYING ARMY, STILL EQUIPPED WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS, REMAIN THERE. AND TURKEY HAS TAKEN NO ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION SUBSTANTIALLY.

THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THESE TURKISH TROOPS OF CYPRUS, THEREFORE, CONSTITUTES NOTHING LESS THAN A CONTINUING VIOLATION OF AMERICAN LAWS. SO LONG AS THE VIOLATIONS CONTINUE, THE EMBARGO MUST REMAIN IN FORCE.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE EMBARGO PROVISION ITSELF
PERMITS PRESIDENT CARTER TO END THE EMBARGO IN A MOMENT,

IF HE IS WILLING TO CERTIFY TO CONGRESS THAT TURKEY IS NOW
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, THE FOREIGN
MILITARY SALES ACT, AND ITS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE
UNITED STATES, AND THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE
TOWARD AN AGREEMENT REGARDING MILITARY FORCES ON CYPRUS.
WE WOULD WELCOME ACTIONS BY TURKEY SUBSTANTIVE ENOUGH TO
PERMIT PRESIDENT CARTER TO MAKE SUCH CERTIFICATIONS TO
CONGRESS; CLEARLY, HOWEVER, TURKEY HAS TAKEN NO SUCH
ACTIONS.

IN HIS POLICY STATEMENTS ON THIS VERY ISSUE DURING HIS
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CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, JIMMY CARTER DECLARED THAT
"THE UNITED STATES MUST PURSUE A FOREIGN POLICY BASED IN
PRINCIPLE AND IN ACCORD WITH THE RULE OF LAW." WE ASK
THAT YOU JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THOSE SENTIMENTS BY VOTING
TO MAINTAIN THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. END TEXT VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, TEXT, ARMS EMBARGO, TEXTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE187977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCEWING:AM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780306-0666
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780721/aaaaasae.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b0de76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1891002
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS TEXT OF "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER DATED JULY 1978 SENT TO ALL HOUSE MEMBERS B
TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU
To: ANKARA ATHENS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b0de76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014